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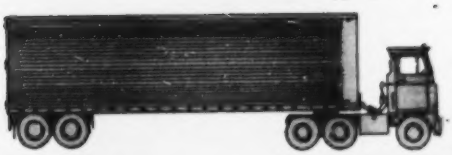

MONTHLY TRUCK TONNAGE REPORT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM STATISTICAL ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT
AMERICAN TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS, INC. 1616 P STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 (202) 797-5390

TONNAGE INDEX DECREASES IN SEPTEMBER

General freight carrier tonnage decreased 5.4 points in September, 1984, from August, 1984 according to the ATA Truck Tonnage Index. At a level of 142.4(p) with 1967=100, the September tonnage is 3.7 percent below August's 147.8(r). The current month's volume is 3 points (2.2 percent) above the tonnage level in September, 1983.

The actual tons reported by motor carriers in the ATA survey decreased from 7.20 million tons in August to 6.93 million tons in September, 1984. Actual tons decreased 3.7%. Adjustments for variations due to seasonality and the number of working (trading) days decreased the September index level to 142.4(p).

From August to September, 1984, Industrial Production decreased 0.6% compared to the adjusted general freight tonnage index decreases of 3.7%. This decline in tonnage corresponds with the leveling off of the general economy noted by a economic analysts.

These findings were announced today by the American Trucking Associations, Inc. (ATA) Statistical Analysis Department. The monthly truck tonnage index is based on a survey of the companywide operations of Class I and II motor carriers of general freight. Index coverage represents in excess of one-half of the tonnage moved by this type of for-hire motor carriers of property subject to Interstate Commerce Commission regulation.

Month-to-month data are compiled using a chain link which, in turn, has been adjusted to remove the normal seasonal inflence and variations due to differing numbers of business (trading) days each month.

The current and historic index numbers are shown on the reverse side, along with several other major business indicator series. A "three-month moving average" adjusted truck tonnage index has also been compiled which aids in smoothing out short term non-significant movements in the series.

Cumulative tonnage for the first nine months of 1984 increased 9 percent from the same period in 1983.

INDEXES AND COMPARISONS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1984
1967 = 100

	Sept. 1984	Aug. 1984	July 1984	Sept. 1983	Monthly % Change 8/84 / 7/84	Monthly % Change 9/84 / 8/84	Yearly % Change
Tonnage Index (adjusted)[1]	142.4p	147.8r	145.6f	139.4f	+1.5	-3.7	+2.2
Tonnage Index (unadjusted)	144.9p	150.6r	137.8f	148.0f	+9.3	-3.8	-2.1
Industrial Production Index[2] (total)	165.1	166.1	165.8	153.8	+0.2	-0.6	+7.3
Manufacturers (total)	166.7	167.8	167.4	155.1	+0.2	-0.7	+7.5
Non-durable	181.5	182.2	182.4	174.6	-0.1	-0.4	+4.0
Durable	156.5	157.8	157.0	141.6	+0.5	-0.8	+10.5
Retail Store Sales Index[2] (adjusted)	444.5	437.5	438.9	407.7	-0.3	+1.6	+9.0
Producer Price Index[3] (unadjusted)	289.8	291.8	292.6	285.1	-0.3	-0.7	+1.6
Consumer Price Index[4] (unadjusted)	314.5	313.0	311.7	301.8	+0.4	+0.5	+4.2
Tonnage Reported by 175 Carriers in September 1984 (000 tons)	6,932	7,202	n.a.	7,132	n.a.	-3.7	-2.8

p - preliminary r - revised f - final n.a. - not applicable

1 - Adjusted seasonally & for trading days
2 - Seasonally adjusted
3 - Finished goods (formerly Wholesale Price Index)
4 - Goods and services

ADJUSTED MONTHLY TRUCK INDEX -- HISTORICAL -- 1967 = 100

	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
January	192.4	164.6	153.1	129.7	127.1	144.8
February	198.8	157.1	152.8	133.0	126.2	139.6
March	203.1	157.5	152.9	129.8	127.8	142.3
April	144.1	150.6	152.8	131.3	130.2	146.8
May	190.4	142.8	153.0	130.9	134.0	144.0
June	185.8	139.4	151.1	131.0	135.9	143.0
July	185.1	134.7	150.7	128.7	150.9	145.6f
August	175.8	141.1	146.9	131.3	138.9	147.8r
September	173.8	145.3	143.4	128.5	139.4	142.4p
October	172.5	148.0	140.1	125.2	138.7	
November	172.2	151.1	136.7	122.4	139.3	
December	168.7	154.2	130.7	124.9	142.4	

* all data are final unless otherwise noted.

Three Month Moving Average of Adjusted Truck Tonnage Index for Recent Months

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1982	131.1	130.8	131.4	130.7	131.1	130.2	130.3	129.5	128.3	125.4	124.2	124.8
1983	126.1	127.0	128.2	130.7	133.4	140.3	141.9	143.1	139.0	139.1	140.2	142.2
1984	142.3	142.2	142.9	144.4	144.6	144.2	145.5r	145.3p				

The moving average aids in smoothing out less significant monthly variations.